

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Please replace the claims with the following claim listing:

1. (Original) A billet hub adapter for a quick release steering wheel, comprising:
a substantially cylindrical billet hub having a body, a top, and a bottom;
a plurality of tapped holes in an OEM steering wheel bolt pattern on the top of the billet hub; and
a first central recess in the bottom of the billet hub, the first central recess being dimensioned to cover a top portion of a suitable quick release mechanism for an OEM steering shaft and three-bolt steering wheels, the first recess including three through-holes in a pattern used by the quick release mechanism, the through-holes extending to the top of the billet hub.
2. (Original) The billet hub adapter of claim 1, further comprising:
a second central recess in the top of the billet hub dimensioned to allow use of a center cap of the OEM steering wheel.
3. (Original) The billet hub adapter of claim 1, wherein the plurality of tapped holes are in a six-bolt pattern.
4. (Original) The billet hub adapter of claim 1, wherein the plurality of tapped holes are in a nine-bolt pattern.
5. (Original) The billet hub adapter of claim 1, wherein the through-holes are counter-sunk in the top of the billet hub.
6. (Original) The billet hub adapter of claim 1, further comprising:
a beveled edge between the bottom and the body of the billet hub.
7. (Original) A quick release steering wheel system, comprising:
a quick release mechanism for an OEM steering shaft for use with three-bolt steering wheels;
a substantially cylindrical billet hub adapter having a body, a top, and a bottom;

a plurality of tapped holes in an OEM steering wheel bolt pattern on the top of the billet hub adapter; and

a first central recess in the bottom of the billet hub adapter, the first central recess being dimensioned to cover a top portion of the quick release mechanism, the first recess including three through-holes in a pattern used by the quick release mechanism, the through-holes extending to the top of the billet hub.

8. (Original) The quick release steering wheel system of claim 7, further comprising:
a second central recess in the top of the billet hub adapter dimensioned to allow use of a center cap of the OEM steering wheel.

9. (Original) The quick release steering wheel system of claim 7, wherein the plurality of tapped holes are in a six-bolt pattern.

10. (Original) The quick release steering wheel system of claim 7, wherein the plurality of tapped holes are in a nine-bolt pattern.

11. (Original) The quick release steering wheel system of claim 7, wherein the through-holes are counter-sunk in the top of the billet hub.

12. (Original) The quick release steering wheel system of claim 7, further comprising:
a beveled edge between the bottom and the body of the billet hub adapter.

13. (Original) The quick release steering wheel system of claim 8, further comprising:
a flange release near a bottom portion of the quick release mechanism.

14. (Original) The quick release steering wheel system of claim 13, further comprising:

a trim ring, the trim ring dimensioned to:

attach to the bottom portion of the quick release mechanism below
the flange release,

hide the steering shaft, and

visually integrate the system into a steering column and/or
dashboard.

15. (Original) A method of preventing theft associated with exotic, open automobiles, comprising:

attaching an OEM steering of the automobile using the quick release steering wheel system of claim 7, and

removing the OEM steering wheel using the quick release steering wheel system when away from the automobile to discourage theft of the automobile or the OEM steering wheel.

16. (Original) A method of adapting exotic automobiles for use in racing environments that require a quick release steering wheel, comprising:

attaching an OEM steering of the automobile using a first quick release steering wheel system of claim 7.

17. (Original) A method of adapting exotic automobiles of claim 16, further comprising;

attaching a three-bolt racing-type steering wheel to a second a quick release mechanism for the OEM steering shaft;

removing the OEM steering wheel using the first quick release steering wheel system; and

attaching the three-bolt type steering wheel using the second quick release mechanism when in the racing environment.

~~18. 15.~~ (Currently amended) A method of preventing theft associated with exotic, open automobiles, comprising:

attaching an OEM steering of the automobile using the quick release steering wheel system of claim 14, and

removing the OEM steering wheel using the quick release steering wheel system when away from the automobile to discourage theft of the automobile or the OEM steering wheel.

19. (Original) A method of adapting exotic automobiles for use in racing environments that require a quick release steering wheel, comprising:

attaching an OEM steering of the automobile using a first quick release steering wheel system of claim 14.

20. (Original) A method of adapting exotic automobiles of claim 19, further comprising;

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attaching a three-bolt racing-type steering wheel to a second a quick release mechanism for the OEM steering shaft;

removing the OEM steering wheel using the first quick release steering wheel system; and

attaching the three-bolt type steering wheel using the second quick release mechanism when in the racing environment.